



## Marine Board Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2026  
Salem, Oregon

For the complete recording of the January 29, 2026 Board Meeting, please contact Jennifer Cooper, [Jennifer.cooper@boat.oregon.gov](mailto:Jennifer.cooper@boat.oregon.gov), or visit [Oregon State Marine Board : Board and Public Meetings : Agency Info : State of Oregon](#)

\*Please note that agenda items F – K were taken out of the order listed on the agenda.

0:00:04 - Chair Laura Jackson called the January 29, 2026, meeting of the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) to order at 8:29 am.

Board Members: Laura Jackson, Steve Lambert, Dax Messett, Fiona Wylde, and Jeff Cunningham were present in person.

Staff: Larry Warren, Director; Janine Belleque, Christy Cornish, Alan Hanson, Brian Paulsen, Phil Hudspeth, Priscilla Macy-Cruser and Jennifer Cooper were present.

0:00:19 - Chair Jackson thanked Director Warren, Alan Hanson and Janine Belleque for the Board tour of the Siletz River the day before and congratulated Andrew Popp on completing the Leadership Oregon Program.

### **Approval of Minutes - 0:00:53**

Chair Jackson asked for review and approval of the minutes for October 30, 2025. Member Lambert made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 30, 2025 Board Meeting. Member Cunningham seconded the motion.

Vote:

Chair Jackson – aye

Member Messett – aye

Member Lambert – aye

Member Cunningham – aye

Member Wylde – aye

The minutes were approved.

### **Public Comment - 00:01:18**

Cam Ellis provided public comments regarding the Siletz River petition.

Frances Oyung shared her appreciation and support for the new rules on the upper Rogue River.

Tim Luke shared his thoughts on motor use and fishing on the Siletz River.

0:13:07 - Chair Jackson paused the public comment period for the Governor's Natural Resources Team to share their presentation.

## **Board Agenda:**

### **Item A: Governor's Natural Resources Team Update - 0:13:09**

Geoff Huntington, Senior Policy Advisor on Natural Resources, Climate and Energy, and Chandra Ferrari, Natural Resource Policy Team with the Governor's Office, shared a presentation on the Governor's Executive Orders on Climate Change.

0:33:56 - Member Lambert asked how outdoor recreation is being taken into consideration with the attributes. Chandra Ferrari shared that the attributes include recreation by building resiliency, providing opportunity, and managing lands and waters to make sure they are sustainable over time. Geoff Huntington added that it is a framework and the agencies can tailor it to how it works best for them.

0:40:11 - Chair Jackson asked how the Legislature is involved. Geoff Huntington shared that they are working to get a cohesive message so when the executive branch and the legislative branch intersect, they can push the messaging through.

### **Public Comment, continued - 0:47:17**

Matt Halseth shared his experience as a fishing guide on the Siletz River and stated that he does not see any safety issues.

Logan Ellis stated that as a guide on the Siletz River, he does not see any conflicts on the river and the issue is that there needs to be more hatchery fish released.

Angela Sondenaa, Natural Resources Director for the Siletz Tribe, shared that the public rhetoric regarding the Tribe's petition has at times been hostile and disrespectful. They believe that restricting motorized use can help alleviate pressure, improve fishing opportunity, reduce conflict, and protect aquatic life.

Tom Rumreich shared that he has not observed erosion problems on the Siletz River and limiting boat motor usage would limit angling opportunities.

Scott Amerman stated that he is asking for an opportunity to speak to the Board about what his organization does on the river and that he has had no voice in the process. He stated that there is no congestion or safety issues, it is a social issue.

Jay Yelas shared that he doesn't see any conflict, congestion, or safety issues on the Siletz River.

James Allen states that he lives near a boat ramp on the Siletz River and sees no congestion or safety issues.

### **Item B: Director's Agency Report - 1:14:11**

Director Warren shared updates with the Board on the 2026 Legislative session.

1:17:40 - Member Lambert asked if local governments impacted by the recent flood damage are getting emergency funding for repairs or if they will be coming to the Marine Board for funding. Director Warren shared that they are not anticipating federal funding to help with that and Janine Belleque is working on ways to help where possible. Member Lambert also asked about the Southern Resident Orca program and if it will affect coastal waterway usage. Director Warren stated that ODFW is the lead agency, while Marine Board has someone at the table and there is currently no plans for the agency to do specific work.

### **Item C: Serial Communication - 1:22:15**

Director Warren shared an overview of the law surrounding serial communication with the Board Members. The intent of the law is that public meetings are happening in public space.

### **Item D: Budget - 1:46:06**

Christy Cornish, Business Services Manager, shared a presentation on the agency budget and offered options for the Board to provide direction on for moving forward with the 2027/29 budget.

2:36:43 - Member Messett stated that it seems like none of the members are excited about an idea to cut law enforcement or facilities. Member Cunningham shared his thoughts on rounding up registration fees to extend the time before another future fee increase. Chair Jackson shared that without funding there is a risk in some facilities deteriorating or closing. Member Lambert agreed and stated that maintaining an asset is cheaper than rebuilding or replacing it.

2:40:00 - Member Lambert stated that he appreciated Christy's effort in finding a solution with option one that meets the needs of the agency and is explainable to boaters. Member Wylde stated that she sees both sides and the option that gets to the target at the current time isn't bad. Chair Jackson stated that she is leaning towards option one as it is. Member Wylde added that things are getting more expensive and it's the right thing to look at different options to limit the impact on users, however the agency needs to be able to function so people can use the waterways safely. Director Warren shared that he appreciated the discussion between the Board Members and that it is helpful for staff.

2:50:16 - Chair Jackson asked the Board if there was a consensus on direction. All members agreed on option one.

### **Item E: Don Lindley Property Disposal, Lincoln County - 2:50:34**

Janine Belleque, Boating Facilities Program Manager and Tribal Liaison, shared that Lincoln County has purchased the Don Lindley property from ODFW. The grant agreement will be terminated, and the funds will be reimbursed to the agency.

**Item G: Ana Reservoir Petition - 2:55:18**

Phil Hudspeth, Policy Program Coordinator, shared information on the petition received for a slow-no wake speed for the entirety of Ana Reservoir. The Board Members engaged in discussion on the petition and use of the reservoir.

3:09:16 - Chair Jackson made a motion to deny the petition for rulemaking on Ana Reservoir. Member Messett seconded the motion.

Vote:

Chair Jackson – aye

Member Lambert – aye

Member Messett – aye

Member Cunningham – aye

Member Wylde – aye

Motion passed unanimously.

**Item K: Executive Session, Agency Director Review - 3:09:45**

The Board Members met in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(i) to discuss the agency director annual review.

**Item F: Boating Safety Team Update - 4:18:30**

Brian Paulsen, Boating Safety Program Manager, shared a presentation on the Boating Safety Program.

4:51:28 - Priscilla Macy-Cruser, Boating Safety Advocate Program Coordinator, shared a presentation on the Boating Safety Advocate Program.

**Item I: Waterway Access Permit Rulemaking - 5:06:27**

Alan Hanson, Policy and Environment Program Manager, provided the background on the whitewater exemption rule for the Waterway Access Permit.

5:12:27 - Member Wylde asked if there has to be an exemption under the current law. Director Warren explained that the current law states that the Marine Board must create exemptions, though it doesn't specify what the exemptions are. Member Lambert asked to clarify if the law states "may" or "shall" create exemptions. Director Warren stated that he believes the current law states "may" however on the record the intent of the law was for the Board to create the exemption.

5:19:48 - Member Lambert made a motion that the Board approve the amendments to OAR 250-010-0760 to create a whitewater exemption as proposed in the Board book. Chair Jackson seconded the motion.

Vote:

Chair Jackson – aye

Member Lambert – aye  
Member Messett – aye  
Member Cunningham – aye  
Member Wylde – nay

Motion passed in a 4-1 vote.

5:21:36 - Chair Jackson reopened public comment to allow someone to speak who arrived late.

#### **Public Comment, continued - 5:21:40**

Jack Glass shared that he is a fishing guide and the issue on the Siletz is a social issue. He shared his experience on the Sandy River and stated that education can go a long way.

#### **Item J: Siletz River Rulemaking - 5:26:54**

Member Messett shared that there may be a potential conflict of interest as he is a licensed fishing guide, however he does not guide on the Siletz River.

5:27:39 - Mr. Hanson provided the Board with an update on the Siletz River rules advisory committee (RAC) process and shared the findings from the RAC. He stated that the focus is on the area from Jack Morgan Park to Moonshine. Mr. Hanson asked the Board to provide guidance on which direction staff should take as they develop a rule.

5:35:30 - Chair Jackson shared that she thinks a section solution is the way to go and that most of the motors are drift boat motors which are somewhat self-policing. She added that if they were to do a flow restriction, it should come from ODFW and she would love to see more proactive input from them. Member Cunningham asked if increased fish count could solve the health of the river and supply for future generations. Member Lambert shared that he would like further discussion about options such as use restrictions and different sections. He added that he would like to have a public hearing around Siletz so the public can speak to the Board. Mr. Hanson shared that staff would bring a draft rule to the Board in April and then go out for public comment and public hearings with the draft language. Chair Jackson shared that a work session would give an opportunity for others to present to the Board. Member Cunningham asked if ODFW has usage data on the river to be able to quantify the conflict. Member Wylde stated she would like to see data on type of users, how many boats, and size of motors to have a better understanding. Director Warren stated that staff will get as much information as possible for the Board. Member Messett shared that he wanted to thank the members of the RAC for participating and encouraged others to participate so the Board has as much information as possible. Member Lambert stated that at the work session he would like to see data from the Boating Safety team on the history of contacts, and hear from the Siletz Anglers Association, the petitioners, and a representative from ODFW. Member Messett added he would like data on the impacts from gas and electric motors on fish and wildlife. Member Cunningham stated that he would like to hear from ODFW about why there are certain regulations on some rivers and if it solved conflict.

5:57:47 - Chair Jackson recapped that no one on the Board is 100% for a ban or staying status quo, but they are looking toward option two. They would want staff to bring back options that can include points of demarcation, threshold, motor sizes, or non-motorized sections. Director Warren added that the Board will need to finalize the draft rule at April meeting.

**Item H: Upper Rogue River Rule Report - 6:00:37**

Mr. Hanson provided an update on the Upper Rogue River Rules approved in 2025, including a history of the rulemaking and the implementation. He shared that there have been no complaints, most boaters have been compliant with the rules and there have been many comments received that are in support.

**Item L: Board Meeting Timelines - 6:07:56**

Director Warren shared that cycle 2 grants and the Siletz River rules will be added to the April agenda, and minijets will be moved to the October agenda. Chair Jackson asked to have an AIS informational update in October.

Chair Jackson adjourned the meeting at 2:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Cooper